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N. E. FARMER.

DEATH OF DR. VAN MONS.

[We make the following extracts from an article published in the Boston Transcript, of Jan. 8th, relative to the decease of this celebrated individual, with sketches of his history as connected with his horticultural labors. We believe an account of some of the difficulties he had to encounter in pursuing his favorite occupation, have before been laid before our readers, in an article written by Gen. Dearborn, a number of years since; but as it is allowable to repeat an important idea in an address or discourse, so we may be excusable in publishing a second time an example of such uncommon perseverance as is exhibited in the life of the lamented Van Mons, as an encouragement to others who may have their favorite schemes frustrated by unforseen circumstances.]

From a letter received on Saturday by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, we are informed of the death of a truly great and wonderful man—Jean Baptiste Van Mons—a learned physician, a distinguished chemist, a superior linguist, and an experimental and scientific agriculturist—to whom Europe and America are indebted for many new theories concerning the propagation and improvement of fruit trees, and various facts connected with the beautiful science of horticulture. To him the world is indebted for some of the best pears; and it was from him that Mr Manning, of Salem, obtained his great collection of the same delicious fruit. The letter announcing the decease of this benevolent and gifted individual, is from his son, a Colonel of artillery in the Belgian army, and was accompanied with several pamphlets, giving a history of the principal events in his life. On Saturday, the Massachusetts Horticultural Society passed a vote of thanks to Col. Van Mons, and voted that it, with a sincere expression of condolence, should be immediately transmitted to the afflicted family of the deceased.

From one of these French pamphlets we translate the following interesting facts:

Jean Baptiste Van Mons was born at Brussels, on the 11th of November, 1765, an epoch when that grand intellectual movement began to manifest itself in Belgium, out of which grew the Literary Society and the Royal Academy of Brussels. Van Mons, however, was entirely self-educated. He had learned in college the little Latin that was there taught, and he instructed himself whilst performing the simple duties of an apothecary. His numerous writings gave evidence of the varied knowledge he began to acquire, and it was soon seen by his voluminous correspondence with the most distinguished men of his time, that he understood nearly all the living languages of Europe.

From his youth he had devoted himself with zeal to the cultivation of flowers and fruit, possessing an observing mind which led him to make many important discoveries. In 1795, *Berthollet* thanked him in the name of the Society for the Promotion of Agriculture and Arts, for several valuable communications, and afterwards, the Agricultural Society of the Province of the Seine, publicly awarded to him a gold medal, for multiplying varieties of fruit trees. He received similar tokens from many other countries, and his works were translated into their languages. After the troublous events of 1815, when King William reestablished the Royal Academy of Science and Belle Lettres, which the French invasion had destroyed, Van Mons was honored with the first appointment, and in 1817, he was appointed to fill the chair of Chemistry and Agriculture in the University of Lauvain. Under other circumstances, he would doubtless have declined this appointment; for, it was asked, "how could he leave his nursery, the result of so much labor and experience?" Two successive and sad events induced his departure from Brussels—the death of his youngest son, and the loss of his cherished wife. This double misfortune plunged him into grief: he isolated himself from society, and became negligent in his appearance. His friends believed that the new appointment to which he was called, might divert his thoughts; they conceived how he came to quit his nursery, the object of his constant care. He had more than 80,000 trees, the greater part being seedling pears. The neighborhood of Lauvain and his extraordinary activity enabled him to unite his new duties with his favorite cares, but in 1819, it was thought necessary by the authorities to cut up his nursery grounds into streets and building lots. M. Van Mons was summoned to clear it in the brief space of two months, under penalty of seeing all his trees cut down and destroyed by fire. Such a command would have been death to many in the situation of M. Van Mons: he was sensibly affected, but not cast down. Professor in the University of Lauvain, he resolved to transport his nursery into that town, so that he might see it without quitting the University. But the time assigned to clear the place, was unfortunately in the winter, (1st of November to the 24th of December.) M. Van Mons had only Saturday and Sunday of each week at his own disposal. To cut his graftings, mark the choicest trees, and give his orders for the rest, was all that he could do himself. He could only save the twentieth part of what he possessed, and that twentieth part consisted in slips to graft. The remainder were sold or given away.

After such a catastrophe it might be supposed that he would never expose himself to one of a similar nature; but he had unfortunately selected land belonging to the town, and the authority which should have protected his grounds as if they had been the gardens of Hesperides, were the first to abandon them to pillage. In 1831, they were destroyed by the army during the siege of Anvers! His philosophy here did not forsake him; he hired two pieces of land and recommenced his labor, but here again the rage for public utility pursued him, and the engineers decided in 1834 that the nursery of M. Van Mons was the only proper spot upon which to establish a gas manufactory! Notwithstanding these checks, he persevered towards the end he desired to attain, and in the same year in which they obliged him to give up his first nursery, he undertook, with M. Bory, the compilation of the "*General Annals of the Natural Sciences.*" The year 1825, found him confined to his bed with a severe wound in the leg, and he profited by this obligatory repose to publish a catalogue of fruits, in which we find mention of more than 2000 varieties. The revolution of 1830, suppressed the University at Lauvain, and gave place to a Catholic College. M. Van Mons was chosen professor at Gaud, but his advanced age prevented him from accepting this post. The government feeling that this veteran of science had a lawful demand upon their favor, granted him a pension with the ordinary distinctions due to his services, and soon after the King conferred upon him the decoration of his Order. In 1837, he lost his second son, and his grief for this event, nearly overwhelmed him. One month before his death, he wished to go back to Brussels to see his two remaining sons, and the tombs of those for whom he had not ceased to weep; but soon the force of habit prevailed, and he returned suddenly to Lauvain, where he shut himself up in the midst of his papers, and where death surprised him on the 6th of September, 1842.

M. Poiteau, in preparing a work of the greatest interest, in which he developed the principal views of M. Van Mons regarding the means employed for the improvement of fruit, observes: "I call it the *Theory Van Mons*, and I present it as one of the most learned and most useful discoveries that genius and reason have made towards the end of the 18th century."

Food of the German Peasantry.—Veit, in his work on Husbandry, gives the following as the kind of food, and the quantity, on which the farm laborers in Germany usually subsist, and his account is fully corroborated by Howitt's Domestic Life in Germany:

For breakfast, from one-half to two-thirds of a quart of skimmed sour milk, with an allowance of two and a half ounces of barley meal per individual. For dinner, dumplings of wheat flour, 4 oz. of flour to a person, with skimmed milk; or if meat is given, three-fourths of a pound, with barley bread, constitutes the allowance. For supper, two pounds of wheat meal, made into meal soup in skimmed milk, for ten persons, with a pint of skimmed milk to each, and a pound and a half of potatoes, makes the meal. There are of course some variations in the mode of serving up this homely food, and on feast days boiled pork and beer are sometimes added to the ordinary provisions.

That such a mode of living is not unfavorable to health, the condition of the German peasant and his general longevity fully prove, but we can hardly believe a person could perform the severe tasks which meet the American laborer, with such food and in such quantities as are specified above.—*Alb. Cult.*

The annual value of the manufactures of Massachusetts, is upwards of $80,000,000.

EXTRACTS FROM MR TESCHEMACHER'S ADDRESS

Before the American Institute, in October last.

We are happy to present to our readers the following extracts from Mr Teschemacher's address, (copied from the American Agriculturist,) constituting that portion of it relating to his experiments with Guano. We should have been glad to have received the address (and expected it) long before this, as we had learned it contained other useful information beside what is here given. We have made one or two corrections by request of Mr T.

Experiments with Guano.

"In an address which I had the honor of delivering before the Massachusetts Horticultural Society last year, I detailed a few experiments made by myself with the new manure from the coast of Peru, called guano, which is unquestionably the dung of sea-birds that has accumulated there in almost incredible masses, and which, owing to its never having been washed by rain, not only retains for ages its wonderful fertilizing power, but possibly possesses them in a concentrated form.

I think this is a fit opportunity to give the results of a continuation of some of these and other experiments, premising that every operation has been carried on by my own hands. But I would previously remark, that about four or five years ago, two cargoes of this manure were imported into England; the following season this number was increased to six, and in twelve months of 1842 '43, this importation had increased to above 40,000 tons, and that the sales in London alone since last January, have been from 250 to 500 tons weekly; those in Liverpool probably exceeding this amount. I should be quite willing to rest my belief of its immense importance to agriculture on these facts alone, even if I had not my own experience to confirm it, although I am aware that several experiments have been made which have failed. In all those which I have heard of, the failure could always be traced to some error in its application; some had applied too much, for it is extremely powerful, and had killed their plants—others applied it in ground already highly manured; its effects were of course scarcely visible; others had applied it on dry soil at a dry season, when of course there were no means of its reaching the roots in a proper state. In Peru, it is always applied just previous to irrigation, for it never rains on that coast.

On the 12th of May, this year, I sowed several hills of sweet corn on a poor, exhausted, sandy soil, putting a tablespoonful of guano to each hill of five seeds, without any other manure. I feel sure that this quantity in sowing is two-thirds too much; one teaspoonful would suffice; besides which, it was not sufficiently stirred up with the soil, so that when the young tender sprouts first germinated, they came at once into contact with this most powerful manure, and were considerably injured, turning yellow, and several dying away. Three or four, however, in each hill survived, and soon began to grow, of a dark green color. For the first three weeks, I did not observe much difference between these and some adjacent hills in the same soil, which I had sown also without manure, for the purpose of comparison. When about one foot high, I stirred into each hill about three teaspoonsful more of guano, and watered all freely, as the weather was very dry. On the 11th of July, the tassels appeared, which is about a fortnight earlier than usual. When fit for gathering for the table, I exhibited at the rooms of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, the largest produce of one seed. It had three principal stems, two of which had three heads each, and one two heads, in all eight heads, besides five suckers, each of which showed the silk. The weight of this plant, the roots being cut off, was 8 1-4 lbs. At the same time, I exhibited the best produce of one seed out of the hills without guano or manure. One stalk showed one head, no sucker, and weighed 1 1-4 lb.

It is well known by cultivators of this corn, that under the usual cultivation it seldom averages two heads to a seed. In my address before mentioned, the view I took of the action of this manure, and which I beg leave to state I deduced theoretically, from a consideration of the analysis of its contents, was, that it would be more valuable in agriculture than in horticulture, for that it was probable that it would diminish the size of the flower, but that it would certainly increase the produce of seed. I consider the above experiment with sweet corn alone as considerably fortifying these views, and I will mention but one other of my numerous experiments: it is purely a horticultural one, but it further supports the same theory, which is very important to agriculture.

In February, 1842, I repotted two plants, an old woody one, and a young cutting of heliotrope, which were in soil entirely exhausted, and in which they had been about twelve months. The exhaustion of the soil was proved by the leaves turning yellow and dropping off as fast as they appeared, as well as by the attenuated appearance of the shoots. On repotting, I merely added a teaspoonful of guano to the same soil, and replaced the plants in the same pots. In three months they had both shot out most luxuriant branches, with many clusters of flowers; and on the older and more woody plant, each cluster produced a good crop of seed, which this plant seldom produces, even under good common cultivation. This seed and luxuriance may therefore be fairly attributed to the guano. In order to pursue this subject to its farthest limits, I considered it valuable to discover whether any of the ingredients, discovered by chemical analysis of this manure, had found their way permanently into the seed of the sweet corn, with a view of ascertaining its importance in cultivation as an improver of the food either for cattle or man. I therefore forwarded a portion of the seed grown with guano and that grown without on the same spot, to Mr A. A. Hayes, of Roxbury, to whose valuable discoveries and researches on this subject, I have before alluded, and likewise to Dr. C. T. Jackson, who has also interested himself much in these matters.*

I myself have repeated Mr Hayes's experiments with this corn, although I have not been able to separate the ingredients in the seed, so as to make a delicate and certain comparison with those of seeds grown without guano. Yet, according to the judgment of my eye, there is certainly an increase in the phosphates of the seed with guano. If this fact can be fairly once ascertained with one ingredient, it may be fairly supposed to be the case with others; and when the researches affecting agriculture, now being pursued by numerous able men of science, shall have attained a greater degree of precision and perfection, the importance of a knowledge of the ingredients contained in the various foods of cattle and man, will become quite manifest.

One other consideration has suggested itself to me as worthy of notice. In cultivation, the choice of fine seeds has always been deemed of first-rate consequence. If the seed of this first year's sowing with guano has really acquired any more valuable properties than that cultivated without, it is at least probable, from what we already know practically of the laws of vegetation, that these properties may be increased with another year's similar treatment; I have, therefore, preserved some of this guanoed corn as seed for the succeeding year, when it will be again tried with the same manure.

It is much to be regretted that an imported duty of 20 per cent. ad valorem is levied on guano. This has just been paid on a small quantity imported into Boston, a good portion of which has, by the liberality of Capt. John Percival, of the U. S. Navy, been distributed among the members of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society; no doubt, however, that on proper representation being made at Washington, an article of so much importance to agriculture, will be admitted free.

I will merely add to these statements, that the quantity of guano I consider desirable for each hill of corn of five seeds, is less than one ounce, to be given in two applications. One quarter on sowing must be well mixed with the soil, and three quarters stirred well into the hill when the plant is about a foot high, always endeavoring to effect this latter operation just previous to rain. This would give about 70 lbs. to the acre, supposing it to contain 1,100 hills at six feet apart. The price in England is £10 to £12, or $50 to $60 per ton, of 2240 lbs.; hence the quantity to the acre would cost somewhat less than two dollars, and no other manure is necessary. In England it has been applied at the rate of 250 to 500 lbs. to the acre, or more than six times the quantity by the above calculation; but there it is scattered broadcast as the seed is sown, and of course the quantity used must be much greater, as all the ground is covered. In the method I propose, it is applied as it were simply to each plant. In England, nothing is cultivated in hills: it is either broadcast or in drills.

There is unquestionably much still to learn on this subject: I am sure I do not pretend to have more than raised the skin of the scientific part of it; but of the great value of guano on poor and sandy soils, under proper application, there cannot exist a doubt.

A remark has been made by some even of high authority in these matters, to the effect that having stimulated vegetation highly by these powerful manures, should the application not be continued, the soil would become exhausted and barren. Now is this not true of any manure, of the best cultivated field in the world? Must not the farmer always use manure, and does he not exert himself to make it as powerful as possible? There is no

*Dr Jackson I have not yet heard from, but the result of Mr Hayes's experiments on the corn I transmitted to him, is, that the phosphates in the guanoed corn, are to those in the corn without guano, as 6 to 4; in other words, the guanoed corn contains 50 per cent. more phosphates than the other. Now, according to the most recent physiological discoveries, it is agreed that without the phosphates, neither flesh nor blood can be formed, and therefore, that the value of food for cattle and man, is dependant on the quantity of phosphates it contains.

The facts may therefore be stated as follows: In a poor soil, with guano at the expense of about $3 per acre, a crop of Indian corn may be raised at least double in quantity to that raised on well manured land: and this double quantity will contain 50 per cent. more of those ingredients (phosphates,) which are absolutely necessary to the formation of flesh and blood, than the other.

strength in this objection. The results of many careful experiments made in England on various crops, have been published. They are quite decisive in favor of guano, even compared with nitrate of soda, and other powerful fertilizers. Another manure I read of, as much in favor there, is Potter's artificial guano, composed chiefly of the same ingredients as chemical analysis has shown to be contained in the South American guano. Therefore, should the cheap natural source in Peru fail, science has shown how its place can be supplied, although I fear at rather a more costly rate."

CUTTING GRAIN EARLY.

We copy the following from the Michigan Farmer:

Mr Editor—I wish to make known through your paper, some facts which I think will be of some service to the farmers of Michigan.

Amassa Andrews, Esq., of this town, harvested sixty acres of wheat, this season, while it was so green and unripe, that every farmer in the neighborhood thought, and did not hesitate to declare him mad. He commenced cutting it ten days before any other person thought of beginning, and finished before any others had begun. The berry, when cut, was soft, and in that state known as being "in the milk." He has now threshed it; and being somewhat curious to learn the result of so novel a proceeding, I today went, in company with Mr Andrews, to the mill, and examined the wheat, and found it plump, with a peculiar transparency of the berry which I never before saw—which is to be attributed to the very thin coating of the bran. We weighed some, and found it weighed just sixtythree pounds to the measured bushel; and the experienced one informed me that it made *more flour* and *less bran* than any wheat he ever saw.

Now the above facts are worth knowing, from several considerations. By cutting so early, no wheat is shelled and lost, and the harvesting season can be lengthened out, so as not to make it necessary to work so hard; besides, the wheat is beyond a doubt better, and will make more and better flour. Yours, truly,

N. B. Eldridge, M. D.

FARMERS' CLUBS.

We have, on more than one occasion, insisted on the benefits that might be experienced by those interested in the cultivation of the soil, from the establishment of neighborhood associations for the consideration and discussion of questions pertaining to the science and practice of agriculture. We have so often given our own views on this subject, and so often quoted the opinion of our contemporaries of the agricultural press, that it is not necessary to enter again into a discussion of the subject. It must be apparent to every intelligent farmer—indeed to every farmer who is not contented to follow the old-fashioned *skinning* system of tillage—that such associations are calculated to do inestimable good. It is too late in the day to question their good results. Every body admits the fact; and yet, comparatively speaking, nobody is ready to reap their benefits. We should hardly think it possible for any farmer, who is not determined to "hide his light under a bushel," to rest easy without calling his neighbors together to hear the story of his success or failure in the various experiments he may have tried during the season. And this is in reality what these "Clubs" amount to. A number of farmers associate together, and hold meetings once in a week or two, for the purpose of relating their experience in the management of their farms, and expressing their opinions in relation to various practical questions that may be started among themselves. Thus, in a familiar way, all the members give and receive instruction, and all are benefited by the association. The effect of these meetings will at once be seen in the improved modes of cultivation adopted by all the members of the Club, if not by all the farmers in the neighborhood.

We rejoice to learn that *one* Farmers' Club has been organized in this State. The farmers in the neighborhood of Middletown, have formed an association of the kind of which we are speaking, and have begun to hold their regular meetings; and we predict for the farming interest in that vicinity, an improvement in the great art of cultivating the soil, beyond any other neighborhood in the State—unless, indeed, other neighborhoods shall wake up and follow this example.—*Connecticut Far. Gaz.*

MASS. HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Saturday, Jan. 13, 1844.

There was exhibited today, by E. Allen, of Roxbury, a dozen of the *Agaricus campestris*, or the common Mushroom. They were very handsome, and no doubt to those who are accustomed to use them as food, or as a condiment, were very tempting. They were raised by artificial heat. A bed of Mushrooms is very easily managed, and those who are fond of them, may with a little care, have them at all seasons of the year.

For the Committee,

Joseph Breck.

Remedy for Cold Feet.—Dip or plunge the feet into a basin or bucket of cold water; immediately take them out, and rub till they are thoroughly dry; or if snow is handy, rub them with snow. Do this two or three times a week, and in a short time it will be so agreeable that you will use the snow or water almost daily, and never have a cold foot, let the water be ever so cold. *This is a law of nature.* Wear the boots so large that the toes can easily move and expand themselves, and you may go without stockings. The feet will get used to it, like the face and hands, and stand the weather without a covering;—yea, let me ask, why not the feet get used to the weather as well as the face, without a covering except the boots—which is, and always will be, covering enough.—*Exch. pap.*

[We do n't know but there may be philosophy in these suggestions—but precious few, we think, will be inclined to adopt all of them in practice.]

Scalding Milk for Butter.—In the Boston Ploughman, we notice that Mr Johnson, of Framingham, scalds his milk during the winter season, after drawing it from the cow, and then sets it away in the usual manner. The butter made from the cream is as yellow, sweet, and solid, as if made in June. The same thing is done by all good buttermakers in this vicinity, with the same effects as detailed by Mr Johnson.—*Amer. Agricult.*

Resignation.—Nicholas Biddle, Esq. has resigned his office of President of the Philadelphia Agricultural Society. Dr. James Mease has been elected to fill the vacancy.

AGRICULTURAL MEETING AT THE STATE HOUSE.

On Thursday evening, a meeting was held in the Representatives' Hall, for the purpose of organizing and providing for weekly meetings during the session.

The Hon. Morrill Allen was called to the chair, and —— White, Esq., of Taunton, was chosen Secretary of the meeting.

The Hon. Josiah Quincy, President of the Senate, was then chosen President, and the Hon. M. Allen, of Pembroke, Hon. Johnson Gardner, of Seekonk, Cyrus Gale, Esq., of Northboro', H. W. Cushman, Esq., of Bernardston, and Samuel Nash, Esq., of Hadley, were chosen Vice Presidents.

The publishers of the agricultural papers were then chosen to report the proceedings of the meetings, and the senior editor was appointed to publish in the daily papers notices of the weekly meetings.

A committee of three was then chosen to propose questions for discussion, and it was voted that no one should speak more than half an hour in one evening, without special license from the meeting.

It was also resolved that the same committee should appoint some person, for each evening, to open the discussion of the proposed subject, and to provoke debate thereon.

The editor of this paper was then appointed by the committee to make the opening address at the next meeting, on the subject of Manures, which they proposed for discussion on Wednesday evening, 17th inst.

It was resolved to hold meetings in the Representatives' Hall every Wednesday evening during the session, to continue from 7 o'clock to 9.—*Ploughman.*

Heavy Bull.—Mr Joel Tucker, of Monson, in the Ploughman, says: "As I have frequently read accounts of large cattle, I take the liberty to send you the weight of a bull, (part native and part Durham,) that I slaughtered last winter, which is as follows:

1 quarter,	309 lbs.
1 "	317
1 "	369
1 "	396
Hide,	173
Tallow,	63
	1627

If you should hear of any better one being killed, I should like to be informed of it through your useful paper."

A correspondent of the American Agriculturist says soapstone griddles are greatly superior to cast iron ones, as they are not subject to frequent changes from heat to cold. They should be about 3-4 of an inch in thickness. He has one in use, and the cakes baked on it are better than from the ordinary iron griddles, and it gives greater satisfaction to those employed in the culinary department.

Do n't let your animals suffer from cold.

DANA'S PRIZE ESSAY ON MANURES.

Extract from the Report of the Committee appointed by the Trustees of the Mass. Society for Promoting Agriculture, to award the Premium for the best Dissertation upon Manures, and their application to the various Soils in this Commonwealth.

The author of the following Essay upon the application of Chemistry to Agriculture, is known to be one of the most scientific and best practical chemists of the country; a man of genius; a gentleman, too, who has done more to advance the science of Chemistry as applied to Agriculture, than any other man in America. It is intended to be written in plain language, such as most farmers can understand, if they give their attention to it. The principles laid down are generally such as are well established, and no longer doubtful. The great object, however, of the Essay is, to bring into more general notice a theory, and a practice growing out of it, suggested some years since by the author, which has received the sanction of some of our practical farmers, who have tried it under his direction.

If the author is correct, common peat, when mixed with soda, potash, or ammonia, in the proportions given by him, would be, on most soils, equal, as a fertilizer, to the common manures used by the farmer.

Should his views be hereafter fully sustained by experiment, it will lead, we think, to the greatest improvement that has ever taken place in the Agriculture of the State. A cord of peat earth can often, with us in Massachusetts, be obtained from from the meadows, as easily as a cord of manure from the barn-cellar; and one dollar's worth, or twenty pounds of soda ash, would, according to the author, make the one equal to the other.

The theory on which the author founds this practice is, that potash or soda may be substituted for each other and for ammonia in the compost heap, without detriment. To this theory we cannot, at present, subscribe. But whether they adopt this theory of the author's or not, most of our farmers who may read this Essay, will, we believe, receive both profit and pleasure from the perusal.

We therefore recommend, that the Society's premium of *One Hundred Dollars*, be given to Dr. SAMUEL L. DANA, for the best Dissertation upon Manures, and their application to the various soils of this Commonwealth.

ESSAY.

SECTION FIRST.

Clearing and Breaking up, and making Compost.

There is one thing settled in farming—*stable manure never fails.* It always tells. There are no two ways about it. There is here neither theory, nor speculation, nor doubt, nor misgiving. "Muck it well, master, and it will come right," is an old proverb. It is considered a fact so well established, that nobody thinks of disputing it. There is advantage in asking *why* barn-yard manure never fails. The answer is easy: It contains all that plants need for their growth. If we know then what plants contain, we can easily tell what is in manure. The whole doctrine of manures, then, falls into two plain principles, on which hang all the law and the "*profits*" of agriculture:—

1. Plants contain and need certain substances which are essential to their growth.

2. Manure contains all those substances which plants want.

If, then, we would find out what it is which manure contains that makes plants grow, we must first find out what a grown plant contains. This cannot be done without some little, a very little, knowledge of chemistry. Do not be startled, reader. I suppose that you may know nothing of chemistry—no, not even its terms. As a very sensible man, who wrote letters on Botany to a young lady, said, to encourage his pupil, it was possible to be a very good botanist without knowing one plant by name, so is it possible to become a very good agricultural chemist without knowing little more than the chemical names of a very few substances. You know nothing of chemistry, it may be, and as little of law; yet you will go to law, and learn some of its terms by a dear-bought experience. The law terms are harder to learn than the chemical terms. Now I fear that some persons who have followed me thus far, will shut up the book. It is, they say, all stuff, book-farming, and beyond us. If one may not understand what manure is without this learning, we may as well begin where our fathers ended, and that was where our forefathers began ages ago. By a little law, however, picked up as a juryman, or witness, selectman, town-clerk, justice of the peace—yea, perhaps, by hearing an indictment read—men do come to understand what a lawyer means when he talks. So, too, by a little chemical talk, a man may learn what a chemist means when he talks of oxygen, hydrogen, nitrogen, chlorine, and carbon; potash, soda, lime—(all these are old friends; the very names make us feel at home again)—alumina, magnesia, iron, manganese, and silex, sulphur, and phosphorus. Here is a long list. Long as it is, perhaps it will be thought worth learning, when you are told that these are the names of all the substances found in plants, every substance which they want. Out of these is made every plant. Every part of every plant, from the hyssop on the wall to the mountain cedar, contains some or all of these. Be not disheartened. Look over, reader, the list again carefully; see how many are old names of things which you know. Of the fourteen, you know nearly one-half by name and by nature. These are, potash, soda, lime, magnesia, iron, sulphur. Perhaps you will add, that you know carbon is coal, or rather coal carbon. You have heard, from some travelling lecturer at your town lyceum, that oxygen and hydrogen together form water; that oxygen and nitrogen form the air you breathe; that nitrogen and hydrogen form ammonia, or sal volatile, which gives the sharp smell to the smelling-bottle. Besides, the thing has been said so often, that you must have heard it, that chlorine, the substance which bleaches in bleaching salts, united to soda makes common salt, or if chlorine is united to ammonia, sal ammoniac is formed. Now, by changes and combinations among these fourteen things, nature makes every thing we find in plants. Many of these are invisible to us, as is the air. The substance called chlorine, perhaps you have never seen, but if you ever smelt it you will never forget it. It is often smelt in a piece of bleached cotton, when opened in the shops. It gives the smell to bleaching powder, used to disinfect the air during cholera and other diseases. If you could see it, it would appear merely a faint yellowish green air. It is all-powerful on vegetation. As it forms a part of common salt, say half of its weight, we may dismiss the further consideration of it by saying, that, in some shape or other, chlorine is universally diffused in soil and plants.

The list above may be divided as follows: first, the airy or volatile; secondly, the earths and metals; thirdly, the alkalies; fourthly, the inflammables. Only the third and fourth divisions require to be explained or defined. The substances called potash and soda, are termed alkalies. They are said to have alkaline properties. Touch your tongue with a bit of quick-lime, it has a hot, burning, bitter taste. These are called alkaline properties. Besides these, they have the power of combining with, and taking the sour out of, all sour liquids or acids—that is, the acid and the alkali neutralize each other. This word alkali is of Arabic origin: its very name shows one of the properties of alkalies. "Kali" is the Arabic word for bitter, and "al" is like our word super—we say fine and superfine; so kali is bitter; al-kali, superlatively bitter, or truly alkali means the "dregs of bitterness."

I wish, reader, for your own sake, as well as my own, that you should fix in your mind what I have said about alkali and alkaline properties. Alkali is a general term. It includes all those substances which have an action like the ley of wood ashes, which you use for soap-making. If this ley is boiled down dry, you know it forms potash. Now lime fresh slaked has the alkaline properties of potash, but weaker, and so has the calcined magnesia of the shops, but in less degree than lime. Here we have two substances, earthy in their look, having alkaline properties. They are called, therefore, alkaline earths. But what we understand chiefly by the term alkalies, means potash, soda, and ammonia. Potash is the alkali of land plants; soda is the alkali of sea plants; and ammonia is the alkali of animal substances. Potash and soda are fixed, that is, not easily raised in vapor by fire. Ammonia always exists as vapor, unless fixed by something else. Hence we have a distinction among alkalies which is easily remembered. This distinction is founded on the source from which they are procured, and upon their nature when heated. Potash is vegetable alkali, derived from land plants; soda is marine alkali, derived from sea plants; ammonia is animal alkali, derived from animal substances.

Potash and soda are fixed alkalies; ammonia is a volatile alkali. Potash makes soft soap with grease, and soda forms hard soap. Ammonia forms neither hard nor soft—it makes with oil a kind of ointment used to rub a sore throat with, under the name of volatile liniment. But though there be these three alkalies, and two alkaline earths, I want you to fix in your mind, reader, that they all have common properties, called alkaline, and which will enable you to understand their action without more ado about their chemistry.

The inflammables, or our fourth division, are sulphur and phosphorus; both used in making friction matches. The phosphorus first takes fire by rubbing, and this sets the sulphur burning. Now, the smoke arising from these is only the sulphur and phosphorus united to the vital part of the common air. This compound of vital air, or oxygen, as it is called, and inflammables, forms acids, called sulphuric and phosphoric acids. So if you burn coal or carbon, it is well known you form fixed air, or carbonic acid. That is, by burning, the coal or carbon unites with the oxygen or vital part of common air, and forms carbonic acid. The

heavy, deadly air, which arises from burning charcoal, has all the properties of an acid. And now let us see what these properties are.

All acids unite or combine with the alkalies, alkaline earths, and the metals. When acids and alkalies do thus unite, they each lose their distinguishing properties. They form a new substance, called a salt. It is very important you should fix well in your mind this definition of a salt. You are not to confine your idea of a salt to common salt. That is a capital example of the whole class. It is soda, an alkali, united to an acid, or chlorine, or, to speak in the terms the most intelligible, to muriatic acid. So saltpetre is a salt. It is potash united to aquafortis. Yet in saltpetre you perceive neither potash nor aquafortis. These have united—their characters are neutralized by each other. They have formed a neutral salt. Our list of substances found in plants, is thus reduced from things which you did not know, to things which you do know; and so we have saved the trouble of learning more of their chemistry.

We have reduced the airy or volatile into water, formed of oxygen and hydrogen; of volatile alkali, formed of nitrogen and hydrogen; or into acids, as the carbonic, formed of oxygen and carbon—as the sulphuric, formed of oxygen and sulphur—as the phosphoric, formed of oxygen and phosphorus; and having thus got water and acids, these unite with all the alkaline, earthy, and metallic bodies, and form salts. To give you new examples of these, I may mention Glauber's salts and Epsom salts. Glauber's salt is formed of soda and sulphuric acid; Epsom salts, of magnesia and sulphuric acid; alum, of alumina or clay, and sulphuric acid; green vitriol, of iron and sulphuric acid; white vitriol, of zinc and sulphuric acid; plaster of Paris, of lime and sulphuric acid; bones, of lime and phosphoric acid; chalk and limestone, of lime and carbonic acid. These are all examples of salts—that is, an acid, or a substance acting the part of an acid, united to an alkali, metal, or earth.

We have thus gone over, in a very general way, enough of chemistry for any one to understand the chemical nature of manure. You see, reader, that with common attention, bestowed for an evening's reading, one may learn these chemical terms and their meaning. And now, having learned this first lesson, let us review the ground gone over, and fix once and for all these first principles in our minds. Let us do this by a practical application of the knowledge we have gained.

(To be continued.)

Green and Dry Wood.—A cord of wood whilst green, is said to contain 1443 pounds of water, or one hogshead and two barrels. Let every farmer who hauls wood to market, remember that when he transports it green, he is carrying that weight and quantity of water on his load, which, if he had suffered his wood to remain after it was cut till it was suitably seasoned, he might save from the burden of his oxen or horses, or pile upon the top of it three-fourths of a cord of seasoned pine, and yet have no heavier load than the green cord alone weighed.—*Maine Cult.*

To Extract Oil or other Grease.—Take some common magnesia—not the calcined—scrape off a small portion, and rub it on the grease spot. Let it rest half an hour, then brush it lightly off and rub on some fresh magnesia. Repeat this several times till the grease disappears entirely.

MUTTON.

Hon. Daniel Webster keeps at his farm in Marshfield, from sixty to an hundred sheep, chiefly for their meat. His selection embraces the Southdowns and the Leicesters.

On a recent occasion, Mr Webster remarked, how little the great mass of Americans cared for mutton as food, while in England the people generally esteem it the very best of butcher's meats. He said he believed one reason to be, that the English mutton in general was better than ours. "You may occasionally," he said, "find good mutton in Albany, New York and Philadelphia—but in England you find no bad mutton."

A sheep, according to Mr Webster, should never be killed for the table before it is three years old. A lamb, indeed, may get nearly its full growth at a year and a half, or twenty months, and become very fat, and this is the age at which they are usually sold for the shambles; but such early mutton is not delicately mixed, the lean with the fat. It shrinks in boiling, and when cut upon the table, it fills the dish with *white* gravy. Mutton two years older, though no fatter, will have a much higher flavor, the muscle and the fat being mixed, and when thoroughly cooked will fill the dish with *red* gravy.

It is gratifying to find these views maintained by one whose authority will secure for them the influence to which they are entitled. The attempt in some circles to exclude mutton from the list of delicacies, is here well and deservedly rebuked. No man who possesses a cultivated taste in these matters, will fail to respond to the discriminating remarks of Mr Webster.—*Worcester Ægis.*

ERGOT.

Writing of the investigation which has been going on in the Cultivator as to the causes of abortion in cows, a correspondent says—"I perceive that some attribute this difficulty to *ergot*. Now many of your readers do not know what ergot is, or where produced. Will you be so good as to tell us what is meant by the article, and on what plants we are to look for it?"

The substance called *ergot*, is also known by the name of *Secale cornutum*, *spurred rye*, &c., and is occasionally found on many of the cereal grains and grasses, but most commonly on rye. There appears to be no little discordance among botanists and vegetable physiologists as to the cause of this disease of seeds. Some attribute it to the puncture of insects, some to an altered condition of the pistil, and some consider it a fungus. De Candolle calls it a fungus; Endlicher does not admit it as a real fungus, but considers it a diseased state of the seeds, generated by a particular combination of external influences. During the formation of the seed of rye, in which it most commonly appears, some of the ears will be found to contain seeds greatly enlarged and elongated, gradually protruding from the chaff, with a whitish or greenish color at first, but becoming brown or black on exposure to the air. The interior is a light gray. It sometimes grows to the length of two inches, warps and curves like a horn; hence the name of *cornutum*. When fresh, these horns are tough, but become hard and brittle by drying, and in time it loses the nauseous, acrid taste and peculiar smell which indicates its fungous origin. Wildenow asserts that ergot may be produced on rye at any time, by sowing it in a rich, damp soil, and watering the plants freely in warm weather.

Ergot is found on some of the grasses, and perhaps occasionally appears on all. We have seen meadows in which Juno grass *(Poa pratensis.)* abounded, which were sensibly discolored, when the grass stood until ripe, by the immense number of black horns that covered almost every head; and when such hay was threshed on a floor, (a precaution deemed necessary to prevent its apprehended effect on the young cattle to which it was to be fed,) the ergot might be scraped up by quarts. We have also found it occasionally, but rarely, on cat's tail or timothy, and last season we for the first time saw it growing on spring wheat. This spring wheat had been sown where winter wheat had been killed out, and among it occasional stalks of rye were to be found loaded with most magnificent horns or spurs of ergot. When the spurs are large, there are but few to the ear, but sometimes the character of nearly every kernel will be changed, and the seeds, though but little enlarged, possess all the nature or properties of true ergot. It is when it assumes this form, that it produces the dreadful effects described by medical writers as at times exhibited in Germany and Hungary on the poor, who are driven by want to use rye containing more or less of this fungus, for bread. The mildest form of these effects is a nervous derangement of the system; the most severe nausea, vomiting convulsions, frequently terminating in death, or when not immediately fatal, ending in *dry gangrene* or mortification, during which the feet and fingers swell and fall off by a slow but certain decay.

If eaten by cattle, we have no doubt it would exhibit its effects in some marked form. That it has produced hoof-ail or gangrene in cattle, we have not the slightest doubt; the evidence we have had on the subject, forbids it. That it may produce abortion in cows, we also think probable; but in some of the cases mentioned in the Cultivator, it could not have been the active cause, as none of this substance could be detected in the hay used or in the fields. If, as is asserted by Wiggers, the white dust or bloom sometimes found on the surface of the spurs, will produce it on other plants, if sprinkled on them or sown on the earth about their roots, it would be well to avoid the use of grain for seed in which this fungus is found, as its poisonous qualities render it a substance much to be dreaded, whether in grain or grass.—*Albany Cult.*

Indulge the Curiosity of Children.—Suppress not their curiosity or inquisitiveness. It is no failing in and of itself. It is rather one of the strongest incentives and the most prominent means to become learned and wise. It is generally from ignorance, indifference, or a peevish disposition, that a man commands his children to be silent, or reproaches them for an improper and reprehensible curiosity, when they inquire about something, and are not satisfied with the first answer given them. They must indeed learn and use prudence and discretion in the company of strangers. But parents and teachers would neglect the best opportunity of their instruction if they continually require of them to be only mute hearers. No—it is their duty, and if they love their children or pupils, it will be a pleasure to answer their questions, not with a dry yes or no, but in such a manner as will convey the information they desire.—*Exchange pap.*

NEW ENGLAND FARMER,
AND HORTICULTURAL REGISTER.

Edited by Joseph Breck.

Boston, Wednesday, Jan. 17, 1844.

BUSINESS FOR JANUARY.—No. II.

Cutting and Sledding Wood.

We presume every thriving farmer has already made a commencement in this laborious work; he has, no doubt, been busy every pleasant day during the past month, and the fine sledding so well improved, that his wood-pile has already begun to make an imposing appearance, and perhaps his whole year's stock has been brought home. The old practice of going over the lot, and selecting here and there a tree, such as are found in a decaying state, is a bad one, as many young trees are thereby very much injured or completely destroyed. We believe this course is now almost universally abandoned, and our most calculating farmers make a clean sweep of their lots, except the very young trees, which are spared, if it is decided to let it grow up to wood again; or if they are all cut close, they will start up again with great vigor. It is pleasing to see the rapid progress a young wood lot will make from year to year, when the old wood has all been cleared off. The sun and air will give the saplings a wonderful start. We have seen a wood lot in twenty or twentyfive years from cutting, thickly and evenly set with trees of sufficient growth to be fit subjects for the woodman's axe. The stumps of young and vigorous trees will be inclined to throw up sprouts of a very luxuriant character, and a third growth will be making rapid progress before the farmer is hardly aware of it; whereas from old trees this will not be the case. It is important to have all the wood hauled before this month closes. The oxen are now, or should be, in good heart, and the snow is not generally so deep as in the month of February. If this work is deferred, it may be very difficult, or even impossible, to execute it, as very deep snows will greatly impede the travelling, or render the entrance into many lots inaccessible. In cutting the wood from a lot, nothing should be thrown into the wood-pile which would prove more valuable for timber or fencing stuff. The proprietor should carefully select every thing of this kind, and board and other logs designed for sawing, should be carted directly to the mill. Every farmer should calculate to have a large stock of dry wood on hand at all times, so that he may be enabled to sell occasionally to those who are either unable to lay in a stock, or to those that are improvident. To be obliged to cart wood for his own use, in the summer, as we have sometimes seen, is altogether out of character, and argues great want of prudence and forethought—and, we may add, some folks think, is an indication of any thing but thrift. We have seen a farmer (?) in hay time, under the necessity of going into the woods with his oxen, fell a tree, draw it home whole, and cut it up by piecemeal, as his wife might want it, to keep her pot boiling. (Wonder if he had his dinner in season.) This, however, was not in Massachusetts, and we hope it was an extreme case in the State where we witnessed it.

Care of the Stable or Barn.

It will be necessary to keep a watchful eye at the barn, and see that the animals are well supplied with proper food at the regular time, and kept in a comfortable state. The boys or hired men will need some looking after, or else the hay may disappear faster than was expected. It is good economy to cut the feed. We have practiced it for the last seven years, and think there is much saving by it. The horses will eat hay of an inferior quality when cut, especially if a little meal is mixed with it. We have kept from four to six horses in this way most of the time, and they are always in good flesh and spirits, although the work of some of them has been severe. The way we manage is as follows: We have a box or trough eight feet long, sixteen inches wide inside at the bottom, widening to two feet at the top, and about eighteen inches deep. This stands on one side of the barn floor, with Green's Straw Cutter (advertised on another page,) at one end. As the fodder is cut, it falls into the box, which is capacious enough to hold the feed for our horses and eight cows or more. With this machine, which is undoubtedly the best, a sufficient quantity can be cut in a few minutes for the morning's feed. It is then sprinkled or moderately wet, and the desired quantity of meal thrown into it, and with a shovel, the whole is thoroughly mixed together. In this way our horses consume much marsh hay and other fodder of a coarse kind, which with a peck of carrots per day, will keep them in excellent order: we have sometimes given the horses a peck of carrots morning and evening, to good advantage. To our milch cows, we give one quart of meal each per day with their cut feed, and a peck of carrots in addition, and should give them half a bushel each if our stock of roots would hold out. We cannot speak in too high terms of the utility of roots for horses as well as neat stock: they eat them with a good relish, and with their dry food are highly favorable to their health. We prefer carrots to any other root.

The animals should be regularly supplied with water. In many of the barns recently erected in the vicinity of Boston, the water is brought into troughs directly before the cattle. These troughs are covered with lids fastened with hinges, on the side opposite to the cattle, who soon learn to help themselves whenever they want, by turning up the lid with their noses. This is a very comfortable and convenient way for them. Others have good conveniences in the barn-yard, while some still drive their cattle to the nearest brook or pond, which causes a great waste of manure, and exposes the cattle, when it is slippery, to accidents, and it is also a waste of the time occupied by the one who drives them.

It may be unnecessary to remind the farmer of the importance of having a warm barn, but it will do no harm surely to give a word of caution. Those who have the old fashioned cold barn, should endeavor to prevent the cutting winds from blowing upon their cattle, by closing the cracks which admit the wind, by nailing over them slips of board or laths, and other means should be taken to keep out the cold. Air can be admitted when necessary, by opening the window, in the day time, but at night the cattle should be kept warm.

The cows and oxen as well as horses, should have the currycomb or card faithfully applied to their hides every morning and kept as clean as possible: it will be found conducive to their health as well as comfort. They should also have a good bedding of straw, leaves, or some other material every night. The stables should be so constructed that the urine will not stand upon the floor, but it should pass directly into the cellar, (if, luckily there is one, as all good barns should have,) on to the compost heap beneath. We have no great opinion of the man who does not regard the comfort of his cattle. "The merciful man is merciful to his beast."

Implements and Tools.

On severe stormy days, it is not desirable for man or beast to be exposed to the wintry blasts, but the time may be profitably spent by the farmer in looking into his tool house, (if he has been so thoughtful as to have one,) and take an inventory thereof, ascertaining what will be necessary to purchase, condemning such as are not worth mending, and taking into consideration such as may be repaired without too much expense. Here are some rakes: one is minus a tooth, and another, more unfortunate, has lost three. Now, act the part of a dentist, (your knowledge is equal to some of these travelling artists,) and fit in some new ones. Another has lost its head, and still another perhaps, its stale: you can make a good one out of the two. The dung-fork with broken tine, and shovels that need a rivet, may be sent off to the blacksmith. The plows, we perceive, are in good order: they were cleaned and put in their places after using them in the fall; but we think you had better have some extra points on hand, as it will be vexatious to be obliged to stop in the midst of your plowing in April, and send to town for them: remember "a stitch in time saves nine." Let us look at the Seed Sower: you will have occasion to use it extensively next spring, as you must raise more roots. Ah, you exclaim, I remember now, it went the rounds among our neighbors last spring, after my own sowing was done, and no wonder it is out of repair. I do not like to meddle with it, so I will send it in to *Willis*. He will rig it up in fine style, and it will come back as good as it was when new five years since. Now see, we "have a place for every thing, and every thing in its place." But the axes—if the storm abates, we shall want to use them in the morning, so get some hot water and have them put in fine order. These friction rollers to the grindstone—what an improvement! how much time is saved by them—and the cost is a mere trifle. Now is a good time to rig up your grindstone with them, if you have one that is worth any thing; if not, manage to get one at some rate, and see that you procure one with a good grit, and be dependant no more upon your neighbor, whose patience has so long been tried by your use of his. Put yourself in a situation to requite some of the good deeds of neighbors, and learn to "do unto others as you would that others should do unto you."

The Maine Farmer appears in a new and handsome dress. "Brother Holmes," its present editor, has conducted it from its commencement—and, uniting much good sense with much good humor, he makes his paper one of the most useful and entertaining in all "down east." The farmers and mechanics of Maine, to whose interests it is devoted, should give it their support.

To Kill Flies in a Cheese Room or Elsewhere.—Cheese rooms are frequently kept closed and darkened, to keep out the flies, as the dairymaids say. Mr Livesay asserts that this practice, ruinous to cheese, may be avoided by occasionally boiling a pennyworth of quassia chips in a pint of water, sweetening it, and placing it on plates, about the room. It will destroy all the flies that taste it. Cheese, he says, being animal matter, cannot have too much air. I have noticed that those cheeses which have been kept in a large, well-aired room, have been quite sound; and those kept in a close, ill ventilated room, were either faded, or very bad in flavor. Though cheese should not be kept in too high a temperature, yet they will bear the summer heat very well, provided they have a constant supply of good air.—*Alb. Cult.*

Fish Oil.—Several persons in Connecticut having seen it stated that fish oil put upon fruit trees, would keep off insects, applied it to peach and plum trees, and the result was, all the trees died.—*Ib.*

NOTICE.

MASSACHUSETTS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

There will be an adjourned meeting held on SATURDAY, Jan. 20th, at 11 o'clock, A. M. EBENEZER WIGHT,
Jan. 17. *Recording Secretary.*

THERMOMETRICAL.

Reported for the New England Farmer.

Range of the Thermometer at the Garden of the proprietors of the New England Farmer, Brighton, Mass. in a shaded Northerly exposure, for the week ending Jan. 14.

Jan. 1844.		7 A.M.	12, M.	5, P.M.	Wind.
Monday,	8	21	20	13	W.
Tuesday,	9	4*	12	8	N.
Wednesday,	10	11	20	26	N. W.
Thursday,	11	4	11	12	N. W.
Friday,	12	1	30	26	S.
Saturday,	13	42	40	40	N. W.
Sunday,	14	19	22	20	N. W.

*below.

BRIGHTON MARKET.—MONDAY, Jan. 15, 1844.

Reported for the N. E. Farmer.

At Market 780 Beef Cattle, 2000 Sheep and 50 Swine. 100 Beef Cattle unsold.

PRICES.—*Beef Cattle.*—The Cattle generally were better than they were last week, and sales were dull at last week's prices. We quote the same, viz., a few extra $4 25 a 4 50, first quality $3 75 a $4 00, second quality $3 50 a $3 75, third quality $3 00 a $3 50.

Sheep.—Small lots were sold from $1 50 to $2 00. Wethers from $2 50 to $3 50.

Swine.—No lots were sold to peddle. At retail from 4 to 6 1-2. About 400 arrived at Brighton at the close of the market.

WHOLESALE PRICES CURRENT.

Corrected with great care, weekly.

SEEDS. Herds Grass, $0 00 to 2 62 per bushel. Red Top 45 to 50 cents. Clover—Northern, 00 to 12c.—Southern, 9 a 10 c. Flax Seed, $1 50 per bushel. Lucerne, 33 c. per lb. Canary Seed, $2 75 per bushel.

GRAIN. Since the last report the arrivals of Grain rather exceed 100,000 bushels, nearly all of which has been sold.

Corn—Northern, new, bushel 00 to 00—Southern, round yellow, old, 00 a 00—Southern flat yellow, new, 47 a 48—do. do. white 46 a 47—do New Orleans, 00 a 00—Barley 00 a 00 —Rye, Northern, 67 a 70—do. Southern, 63 a 65 — Oats, Southern, 29 a 30—Northern do. 33 to 34—Beans, per bushel 1 00 a 1 62.—Shorts, per double bush. 25 a 35—Bran, 18 a 20.

FLOUR. An improved feeling was manifest at the close, and some slight advance in prices realized. No good brands Genesee to be had under 4,94 and generally held at $5.

Baltimore, Howard Street, 4 mos. cr. $4 87 a 5 00—do. wharf, $0 00 a 4 75—do. free of garlic, $4 87 a 5 00—Philadelphia do. 4 mos. $4 87 a 0 00 —Fredericksburg, low l'd 4 mos. $4 81 a 4 87—Alexandria, wharf mountain, 0 00 a 0 00. —Georgetown, $5 00 a 5 25—Richmond Canal, $0 00 a 4 87 —do. City, $0 00 a 0 00—Petersburgh, South side $0 00 a 0 00 —do. Country $4 87 a 5 12—Genesee, common, cash, $4 94 a 5 00— do fancy brands $5 12 a 5 37 — Ohio via Canal, $4 87 a 5 00—do do New Orleans, cash $4 75 a 5 00. Rye, $3 62 a 0 00—Indian Meal in bbls. $2 75 a 2 87.

PROVISIONS. There have been heavy arrivals of Western Pork to day, mostly new packed, and a further large addition to the stock is daily expected. The market in consequence is unsettled, and quotations are in a great measure nominal.

Beef—Mess 4 mo. new bbl. $7 00 a 7 50—Navy—$0 00 a 6 50.—No. 1, 6 00 a 6 25—do Prime $5 00 a 5 37—Pork—Extra clear 4 mo. bbl. $12 50 a 13 00—do Clear $12 00 a 00 00 do. Mess, 9 50 a 10 50—do Prime $8 50 a 9 00—do Mess from other States,— a — —do Prime do do $9 00 a 0 00 do. Cargo do. 0 a 0 00— —Clear do do 800 00 a 00 00— Butter, shipping, 12 a 14—do store, uninspected, 0 a 00—do dairy, 14 cts. a 17—Lard, No. 1, Boston ins. 6½ a 7 —do South and Western, 5½ a 6½ — Hams, Boston, 0 a 0 — Southern and Western, 5 a 6—Cheese, Ship'g and 4 meal, 3 a 4½ —do new milk, 4½ a 5½.

WOOL. Duty. The value whereof at the place of exportation shall not exceed 7 cts. per pound, 5 per cent. ad val. All whereof the value exceeds 7 cts. per pound, 30 per ct. ad. val. and 3 cts. per pound.

There is a good demand for all descriptions, and recent improved prices are fully supported.

Prime or Saxony Fleeces, washed, lb. 37 a 41 c.—American full blood do 35 a 37—Do. 3-4 do 32 a 35—Do. 1-2 do 29 a 30—1-4 and common do 25 a 28 — Smyrna Sheep, washed, 20 a 23— Do. unwashed, 9 a 13 — Bengasi do 6 a 13—Saxony, clean, 00—Buenos Ayres unpicked, 7 a 10—do. do. picked, 12 a 16—Superfine Northern pulled lamb 30 a 35—No. 1 do. do. do. 27 a 30—No. 2 do do do 22 a 25—No. 3 do do do 15 a 18.

HOPS. Duty 20 per cent.

The operation of the week have been about 200 bales, of which 100 were taken for export, and 100 bales on speculation, the former at 7c, and the latter at 6 3-4 c. per lb.

1st sort Mass. 1843, lb. 6 3-4 a 7; 2d do 4½ a 5. 1842, 0.

HAY, 14 to 16 per ton—Eastern Screwed $10 to 11.

EGGS, 25 a 28.

POULTRY. Turkies per lb. from 8 to 10cts.—Geese common 7 to 9—Bremen 10 to 12—Chickens 6 to 10—Ducks 8 to 10.

A FARM TO LET.

A farm consisting of some four or five hundred acres of land, with a farm house, two barns and other out buildings, will be let for a series of years, "on shares." The soil is naturally good and easy tilled. It may be made highly productive, as by its location any amount of manure may be made from sea weed, sea and marsh mud, and other materials, which are found on the farm. It is situated in the vicinity of the eastern termination of the Long Island Rail Road, four hours ride by the way of the Rail Road to New York and six hours from Boston. The person who applies for it must be a native American, an intelligent and enterprising farmer and a professed christian. No person need apply except such as can bring unquestionable recommendations of his qualifications as are specified.

For farther particulars apply to the editor of this paper, or by letter, *post paid*, directed to JUDSON, ANDREWS & CO., Boston. Jan. 17th 1844.

FRESH GARDEN SEEDS.

The subscribers are now receiving large supplies of Garden seeds from Europe, from their own Garden, and other sources. The following are included in the great number of varieties in their establishment, and which they offer at low prices, wholesale and retail.

PEAS.

Cedo Nulli,	Improved Blue Imperial,
Hills' Early,	Woodford Dwarf Marrow,
Early Dwarf,	Bishop's Dwarf, for borders,
" Charlton,	Knights' Dwarf,
" Frame,	Dwarf Marrowfats.
" Warwick,	Tall do.

BEANS.

Lima,	Dwarf China,
Saba,	" Mohawk,
Horticultural Pole,	" Marrow,
Red Cranberry do.	" Kidney,
White do.	" Case knife,
Kidney Pole,	" Six Weeks, &c.

CABBAGE.

Long Late Drumhead,	Early York,
Late Sugar-loaf,	" Battersea,
Green Globe Savoy,	" Vanack,
Red Dutch,	" Hope
Low Dutch Cabbage,	Early Sugar-loaf,

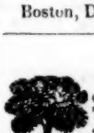
With a great variety of other sorts.

Early and Late Cauliflowers, Broccolis in varieties, Cucumbers, Melons, Squash, sweet Maorjrum, Sage, Summer-Savory, Thyme, Ruta Baga, Turnips, more than twenty fine sorts. Three hundred varieties of FLOWER SEEDS, and every variety of Garden and Field seed, too numerous to mention.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

Boston, Dec. 12, 1843.

FRUIT TREES.



The subscribers are prepared to furnish every description of Fruit Trees, and Ornamental Trees, Shrubs and Plants. The autumn is a suitable time to transplant many Trees and Plants, and often times more convenient than in spring. We have as great a variety of Apples, Pears, Cherries, Plums, Peaches, Quinces, Currants, Gooseberries, &c. as can be found in the country, and offer them at the lowest prices. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

Boston, Oct. 11, 1843.

GARDEN & FLOWER SEEDS FROM LONDON.

We have received, by the Barque Huntress, from London, a choice assortment of GARDEN AND FLOWER SEEDS. We have also received the invoices of three other shipments of Seeds and Trees, which are expected to arrive in the course of 30 days, which will give us the largest and most choice collection of SEEDS AND TREES ever offered by us. Our customers and friends are requested to send in their orders. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

Boston, Dec. 27th, 1843.

SUPERIOR SALT FOR THE DAIRY.

For sale at the Grist Mill in Beach St., *superior fine Salt*, ground from the very best of Bonaire and St Martin's Salt, and is decidedly the best and cheapest article for the Dairy and family use, being of nearly double strength and much purer than the Liverpool salt. For sale by

A. SHIVERICK and
HOWES & CROWELL,

Boston, Dec. 27. 3mo 36 Commercial wharf.

POUDRETTE.

Improvements of such a nature have been made in the manufacture of Poudrette, by the Lodi Manufacturing Co., near the city of New York, as to warrant the opinion, that it is the cheapest and best manure now known and in use. By experiments which have been made it has been proved that its fructifying powers have been greatly increased; its operation upon vegetable matter quickened. It will obviate the effects of severe drought and will retain its fertilizing qualities much longer than any Poudrette heretofore made. It will ripen corn in 66 days, fit for use. *The price will be reduced* the following season, as follows. At the factory it will be sold in bulk, at the rate of 25 cents per bushel. It will be delivered at any wharf or place in the city of New York, free of cartage and other expense, at the rate of $2 for 1 bbl. which contains 4 bushels; $3 50 for 2 barrels; $5 for 3 barrels, and $10,50 for 7 barrels, and at the rate of $1,50 per barrel for any larger quantity. Persons wishing the article, will please give notice in due season, as the orders will be fulfilled in the order of time received. The Co. was incorporated in February, 1840, for 30 years, by the Legislature of New Jersey. No liability to stockholders beyond their subscription of $100 per share. A few shares of what is called the "Reserved Stock," remain to be subscribed for, which the company guarantee shall pay a dividend of 50 bushels of Poudrette a year on each share, as authorized by the charter A pamphlet containing instructions for its use and all other necessary information, is in preparation and will be sent gratis soon after the first of January next, to any person applying for it, post paid. Agents have been, or will be appointed in most of the important places in the Eastern and Northern States, to whom persons may give orders. Where there is no agent, please direct "to the President of the Lodi Manufacturing Co., No. 43 Liberty street, New York," and it shall receive immediate attention. The reader will please refer to the letter of Mr. Kentish, published in this paper to day, December 20, 1843.

GARDEN SEEDS! GARDEN SEEDS!!

The subscribers are now receiving their fall supply of Garden, Grass and Field Seeds of every description, and would respectfully recommend to their customers and the public to send in their orders as early as possible, to secure a supply from their choicest lots.

Their stock of Seeds for this season will be very full and complete, and most of the varieties being raised under their own inspection, they can confidently recommend them as being pure and of the first qualities. Among them are

Long Blood Beet,	Ruta Baga,
Early Turnip do.	Long Orange Carrot,
French Sugar do.	Early Horn do.
Mangel Wurtzel do.	White Field do.

Also, Cucumber and Cabbage Seeds of every variety; Peas and Beans, of every kind; which, together with a large supply of every kind of seed desirable for the field or garden, comprise the most complete and extensive assortment of Seeds to be found in any similar establishment in the country. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.,

N. E. Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, 51 and 52 North Market Street, Boston.

Oct. 18, 1843.

POUDRETTE! POUDRETTE!!

Orders left at the New England Seed Store, and at the factory in Brookline, will meet with prompt attention

For sale by J. BRECK & Co., 51 and 52 North Market Street, Boston. Oct 26.

GRINDSTONES ON FRICTION ROLLERS.

Grindstones of different sizes, hung on friction rollers and moved with a foot treader, is found to be a great improvement on the old mode of hanging grindstones. Stones hung in this manner are becoming daily more in use, and wherever used, give universal satisfaction. The rollers can be attached to stones hung in the common way. For sale by J. BRECK & Co., No. 51 North Market street.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ORIGIN OF THE NAMES OF THE STATES.

Maine was so called as early as 1638, from Maine, in France, of which Henrietta Marie, Queen of England, was at that time proprietor.

New Hampshire was the name given to the territory conveyed by the Plymouth company to Captain John Mason, by patent, Nov. 7, 1629, with reference to the patentee, who was Governor of Portsmouth, in Hampshire, England.

Vermont was so called by the inhabitants in their declaration of independence, Jan. 16, 1777, from the French *verd*, (green,) and *mont*, (mountain.)

Massachusetts was the name of a tribe of Indians in the neighborhood of Boston. The tribe is thought to have derived its name from the Blue Hills of Milton. "I have learned," says Roger Williams, "that the Massachusetts were so called from the Blue Hills."

Rhode Island was so called in 1644, in reference to the Island of Rhodes, in the Mediterranean.

Connecticut was so called from the Indian name of its principal river.

New York was so called in reference to the Duke of York and Albany, to whom this territory was granted.

Pennsylvania was so called in 1681, after William Penn.

Delaware was so called in 1703, from Delaware Bay, on which it lies, and which received its name from Lord De La War, who died in this bay.

Maryland was so called in honor of Henrietta Maria, Queen of Charles I., in his patent to Lord Baltimore, June 30, 1632.

Virginia was so called in 1584, after Elizabeth, the virgin Queen of England.

Carolina was so called by the French in 1564, in honor of King Charles IX. of France.

Georgia was so called in 1722, in honor of King George II.

Alabama was so called in 1817, from its principal river.

Mississippi was so called in 1800, from its western boundary. Mississippi is said to denote the whole river, that is the river formed by the union of many.

Louisiana was so called in honor of Louis XIV. of France.

Tennessee was so called in 1796, from its principal river. The word Tennessee is said to signify a curved spoon.

Kentucky was so called in 1782, from its principal river.

Illinois was so called in 1809, from its principal river. The word is said to signify the river of men.

Indiana was so called in 1802, from the American Indians.

Ohio was so called in 1802, from its southern boundary.

Missouri was so called in 1821, from its principal river.

Michigan was so called in 1805, from the lake on its borders.

Arkansas was so called in 1819, from its principal river.

Florida was so called by Juan Ponce de Leon, in 1572, because it was discovered on Easter Sunday, in Spanish, *Pascua Florica.—Selected.*

The Farmer and the Beggar.—A strong, hearty, lazy fellow, who preferred begging for a precarious subsistence, to working for a sure one, called at the house of a blunt Massachusetts farmer, and in the usual language of his profession, asked for "cold victuals and old clothes." "You appear to be a stout, hearty man," said the farmer—"what do you do for a living?" "Why, not much," said the fellow, "except travelling from one place to another." "Travelling about, ha!" rejoined the farmer; "can you travel pretty well?" "O yes," returned the sturdy beggar, "I'm pretty good at that." "Well, then," said the farmer, coolly opening the door, "*let's see you travel.*"—*Selected.*

Reasons for not Paying for a Newspaper.—The Richmond "Christian Advocate" publishes the following extract from a letter. It is a very fair specimen of the treatment printers occasionally receive from their subscribers:

"Please say to the editor of the Advocate, that it would doubtless be well to erase the name of C. C. from his books, and give up as gone that $7 50. He says, in the first place, he never ordered the paper—and if he did, he never got it; and if he did, 't was as an agent; and besides he thinks he paid for it long ago—and if he did n't, he 's got nothing to pay—and if he had, he could plead the act of limitation."

A Sad Mistake.—In the practice of politely bowing strangers out of a pew, where there is still room to spare, is there not a lack of even worldly courtesy? "Have you not mistaken the pew, sir?" blandly said one of these Sunday Chesterfields, as with emphatic gracefulness he opened the door. "I beg pardon," replied the stranger, rising to go out, "I see that I have: I took it for a *Christian's*." —*Bost. Mail.*

PATENT CORN SHELLER.

A Corn sheller is one of the most convenient and labor saving implements that the practical farmer has in use. Various machines for this purpose have been invented. It can be used in all cases for large or small sized ears. It is very simple in its construction, and durable in its operation, and no way liable to get out of order; one man can work it to good advantage, though a man to turn, and a boy to feed it, works it much better than one alone. They are so light and portable, as to be easily removed from place to place, and one machine will serve for several families or even the inhabitants of a small town.

For sale at the Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 and 52 North Market Street.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

Nov. 1.

WILLIS'S LATEST IMPROVED VEGETABLE CUTTER.

For sale at the New England Agricultural Warehouse, No. 51 and 52 North Market Street, Boston, Willis's Latest Improved Vegetable Cutter. This machine surpasses all others for the purpose of Cutting Ruta Baga, Mangel Wurtzel, and other roots. The great objection to other machines, is their cutting the roots into slices, which makes it almost impossible for the cattle to get hold of them: this machine with a little alteration, cuts them into large or small pieces, of such shape as is most convenient for the cattle to eat. It will cut with ease from one to two bushels of roots per minute. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

Nov. 1.

DRAFT AND TRACE CHAINS.

400 pair Trace Chains, suitable for Ploughing.
200 " Truck and leading Chains.
200 " Draft Chains. For sale by J. BRECK & CO., No. 52 North Market st.

HARRIS' TREATISE ON INSECTS.

For sale by JOSEPH BRECK CO., Harris' Treatises on Insects. Price $2. Also, the second edition of Dana' Muck Manual, price 62½ cts. Feb 15.

HOWARD'S IMPROVED EASY DRAUGHT PLOUGH.

Great improvements have been made the past year in the form and workmanship of these Ploughs; the mould board has been so formed as to *lay the furrow completely over, turning in every particle of grass or stubble, and leaving the ground in the best possible manner.* The length of the mould board has been very much increased, so that the Plough works with the greatest ease, both with respect to the holding and the team. The Committee at the late trial of Ploughs at Worcester, say,

"Should our opinion be asked as to which of the Ploughs we should prefer for use on a farm, we might perhaps say to the inquirer, if your land is mostly light and easy to work, try Prouty & Mears, but if your *land is heavy, hard orrocky,* BEGIN WITH MR. HOWARD'S."

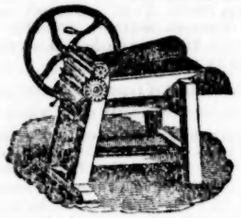
At the above mentioned trial the Howard Plough *did more work, with the same power of team, than any other plough exhibited.* No other turned more than twentyseven and one half inches, to the 112 lbs. draught, while the *Howard Plough turned twentynine and one half inches, to the same power of team!* All acknowledge that Howard's Ploughs are much the strongest and most substantially made.

There has been quite an improvement made on the shoe, or land side of this Plough, which can be renewed without having to furnish a new landside: this shoe likewise secures the mould board and landside together, and strengthens the Plough very much.

The price of the Ploughs is from $6 to $15. A Plough, sufficient for breaking up with four cattle, will cost about $10 50, and with cutter $1, with wheel and cutter, $2 50 extra.

The above Ploughs are for sale, wholesale and retail, at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, Nos. 51 & 52 North Market Street, by

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.



GREEN'S PATENT STRAW CUTTER.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO. at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 and 52 North Market Street, have for sale, Green's Patent Straw, Hay and Stalk Cutter, operating on a mechanical principle not before applied to any implement for this purpose. The most prominent effects of this application, and some of the consequent peculiarities of the machine are:

1. So great a reduction of the quantum of power requisite to use it, that the strength of a half grown boy is sufficient to work it efficiently.

2. With even this moderate power, it easily cuts two bushels a minute, which is full twice as fast as has been claimed by any other machine even when worked by horse or steam power.

3. The knives, owing to the peculiar manner in which they cut, require sharpening less often than those of any other straw cutter.

4. The machine is simple in its construction, made and put together very strongly. It is therefore not so liable as the complicated machines in general use to get out of order.

LACTOMETERS—a simple instrument for testing the quality of milk. For sale by J. BRECK & CO.

NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

A WEEKLY PAPER.

Terms, $2 per year *in advance*, or $2 50 if not paid within sixty days.

N. B.—Postmasters are permitted by law to frank all subscriptions and remittances for newspapers, without expense to subscribers.

TUTTLE AND DENNETT, PRINTERS,
21 School Street.